

The Franciscan

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

900 H. Street, Bakersfield CA 93304
Phone: 661-327-4734 / Fax: 661-377-0363
www.stfran.org



Bulletin for: December 20, 2020 ~ Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mass Schedule

Saturday

8:00 AM (English)
7:00 PM (Vietnamese)

Sunday

8:30 AM (English)
10:30 AM (English)
And Livestreaming on Facebook
12:30 PM (Spanish)

Weekdays

6:30 AM (English)
12:10 PM (English)

Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays: beginning at 8:30 AM
until 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Adoration

Monday thru Friday 7 AM - 5 PM

Anointing of the Sick

On Fridays immediately following
the 12:10 PM Mass

*All Masses are being celebrated outside
of St. Joseph's Chapel.*

*The Mission of St. Francis of Assisi Parish is to
provide a safe, welcoming environment of
Catholic worship, evangelization & fellowship,
living in the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi.*

St. Francis Parish Clergy

Rev. Theophane N. Antony, Administrator Pro-Tem
Rev. Joe Lawrence, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Joseph Lubatti
Deacon Francis Moore
Deacon Hugo Navarrete
Deacon Scotty Bourne, Ret. Detention Ministry
Rev. Msgr. Nathaniel Diokwere, Ret.- In Residence

St. Francis Parish School

Rev. Theophane N. Antony, Administrator Pro-Tem
Kelli Gruszka, Principal
Cindy Schoorl, Vice Principal
Sr. Cris Caballero, RSM, Spiritual Director
2516 Palm Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Phone: 661-326-7955 / Fax: 661-327-0395

St. Francis Religious Education

Dinah Marquez, Director of Religious Education
2424 Palm Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304
Phone: 661-323-8800

*Wishing everyone a very
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year*

St. Francis Parish ~ Priest's Page

Christmas, an act of Giving

There was this little boy who always wondered about sea birds that soar high over the ocean! Sea gulls that fly high captured his imagination and he wanted to fly high as a sea bird. He dreamed of designing rockets to explore the milky way. It inspired him to become an aerospace scientist, and a humanitarian who made a huge difference in the world and went to become the president of India. He is none other than the great scientist, APJ Kalam.

One day he visited a public school where he met some children with disabilities who were unable to play with other kids. He was deeply moved by their plight and decided to do something about it. He went back to work and along with a group of scientists, designed light weight prosthetics, with composite heat materials usually they use for making rockets. He reduced the weight of prosthetics by ten times. A few months later he visited the children again, and saw them running and playing using the light weight artificial limbs he had made. It was sheer joy for him to see those children playing; He said. "whenever I give something, I feel happy. According to him, whatever you may have- knowledge, better economy, kind words, if you can make someone happy, it brings joy."

God the father loved us so much, that he gave us His only Son Jesus Christ, who condescended to live among us to bring us peace and joy!

There is a beautiful inscription by Pope Francis- Christmas is you, when you decide to let God into your soul. The Christmas pine is you, when you resist vigorous winds and difficulties of life. The Christmas decoration is you, when your virtues are colors that adorn your life. The Christmas bell is you, when you call, gather and seek others to unite. You are also a Christmas light, when you illuminate with your life the path of others with kindness, patience, joy and generosity. The Christmas angels are you, when you sing to the world a message of peace, justice and love. The Christmas star is you, when you lead someone to meet the Lord.

You are the wise men, when you give the best for others. Christmas music is you who keep up the harmony. The Christmas gift is you, when you are truly a friend and brother of every human being. The Christmas card is you, when kindness is written in your hands. The Christmas greeting is you, when you forgive and reestablish peace. The Christmas dinner is you, when you share a meal with someone who is poor.

May this Christmas bless us, to receive in the silence of the night, the Savior of the world. May God bless you to become Christmas! Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!

Blessings,
Fr. Theo



St. Francis Parish Announcements & News

Thursday, December 24th

6:30 AM Daily Mass

Celebrated at The Church outside

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

2:00 PM: (English) Children's Mass

Celebrated at St. Francis School

2516 Palm Street

(Please bring your own Chair)

7:00 PM: (Vietnamese) Mass

11:30 PM: (English) Midnight Mass

Celebrated at The Church outside (Livestream on Facebook)

Christmas Day Masses

9:00 AM: (English) Mass

Livestream on Facebook

12:30 PM: (Spanish) Mass

Celebrated at The Church outside

Confession Schedule

December 21st, December 22nd &
December 23rd

Following the 6:30 AM Mass &
the 12:10 PM Mass

Our normal Saturday confession time is also available.

Happy Birthday Fr. Theo

May the Lord give you continued grace,
good health and wisdom. Best wishes
from your parish community!

Celebrating December
25th!



Congratulations!

Father Joe is Celebrating 38
Years in the Priesthood.



St. Francis Parish thanks
you for all you do in the
service of God and his
people!

Christmas Dinner to-go!

Monday, December 21, 2020 ~ Hosted by The Little Flower Society

Dinner & Items will be Given out at 3:00pm—3:45pm

It is that time of year again! Meet us on the following dates to drop off your
donations & volunteer your time to serve, cook or cleanup.

Sign-up sheets will be available at the Youth Center.

Sign up dates are:

Saturday, December 12th at 10am—11am

Sunday, December 13th at 10am-11am

Saturday, December 17th at 10am-11am

Sunday, December 20th 10am-11am

Items needed for the homeless & less fortunate.

Blankets, Sleeping Bags, Tarps, Jackets, Socks, Gloves, Shoes, Scarves & Toys.

St. Francis Parish News & Announcements

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Did you know the story of the origin of the Christmas creche?
Excerpt from Fr. William Saunder's *Francis and the Christmas Creche*

In the year 1223, St Francis, as deacon, was visiting the town of Greccio to celebrate Christmas.

The town was built on a mountainside overlooking a beautiful valley. St. Francis realized the chapel of the Franciscan hermitage would be too small to hold the congregation for Midnight Mass so he found a niche in the rock near the town. St. Francis desired to commemorate the nativity with all solemnity and asked permission from the Pope to prepare a living nativity. He brought in a manger, hay, and an ox and ass. The brethren were gathered and people came filling the forest with their voices in psalms of praise, surrounded by brilliant lights.

St. Francis stood before the manger full of devotion and bathed in tears of radiant joy as the Holy Gospel was chanted. He then, preached to the people around the nativity of the poor King, and being unable to utter His name, out of the tenderness of his love for Him, he referred to Him as the Babe of Bethlehem.

A soldier, who had left warfare for the love of Christ saw Francis holding an Infant, sleeping in the manger, whom Francis embraced with both his arms, as if he would awake Him from sleep. In weeks following this vision the hay from the manger was kept in a special place and when touched by the sick they were cured!

Although this story is long old, the message is clear for us. Our own Nativity scenes which rest under our Christmas trees are a visible reminder of that night when our Savior was born. May we never forget to see in our hearts the little Babe of Bethlehem, who came to save us from sin. We must never forget that the wood of the manger that held Him so securely would one day give way to the wood of the cross.

May we too embrace Him with our love as did St. Francis.

- ◆ THANK YOU TO FR. THEO AND FR. JOE FOR HEARING ALL OUR FIRST CONFESSION THESE PAST TWO WEEK. A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO FATHER JOSEPH FOR JOINING THEM WITH OUR JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL CONFESSIONS.
- ◆ THANK FRANCIE MARCHETTI FOR THE DELICIOUS SOUP DINNERS FOR THE PRIESTS AND TEACHERS.
- ◆ OUR LAST YOUTH MASS FOR THE YEAR WAS BEAUTIFUL AND WE THANK PERRY AND REBECCA HYATT FOR ORGANIZING THE MASS, OUR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FOR GUIDING OUR TEEN USHERS AND A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO JESS AND JEFF ARDRAY FOR LEADING US IN PRAYER THROUGH THEIR GIFTS OF MUSIC.



Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is being held in Mary's Chapel following Daily Mass. Monday - Friday until 5pm, and Saturday's 8AM to 12 PM.

Everyone is encouraged to spend time with Our Lord in quiet prayer, while abiding by the current Covid19 safety practices.

Please consider volunteering as a Monitor of the Blessed Sacrament for an hour each week. Currently we need monitors for the following hours:

Mondays: 12 PM **Tuesdays:** 7 AM & 12 PM **Wednesdays:** 11 AM **Thursdays:** 8 AM & 9 AM **Fridays:** 1 PM

St. Francis Parish News & Announcements

Sanctuary Lamps



Deceased Family Member's
of Julie Yoro
Isabelle Church & Family
Arthur J. Rodrigues
John P. Miksits
Michael France
Armando Leal Soliz
Sr. Josie

Anointing of the Sick
is offered every Friday of the month
after the noon Mass.



Marriage Bans

December 2020

Javier Reyes & Monica Franetovich
Austin Davidson & Lauren Farr

January 2021

Alexus Soto & Natalie Sanchez

March 2021

Nathaniel Alvarez & Nancy Luna
Paul Garza & Alissa Jimenez

The Parish Offices will be
closed December 24th
& 25th in celebration of
Christmas!
Offices will reopen
Monday, December 28th
at 8:00 AM.

Thank you & God Bless!
Celebrate Safely

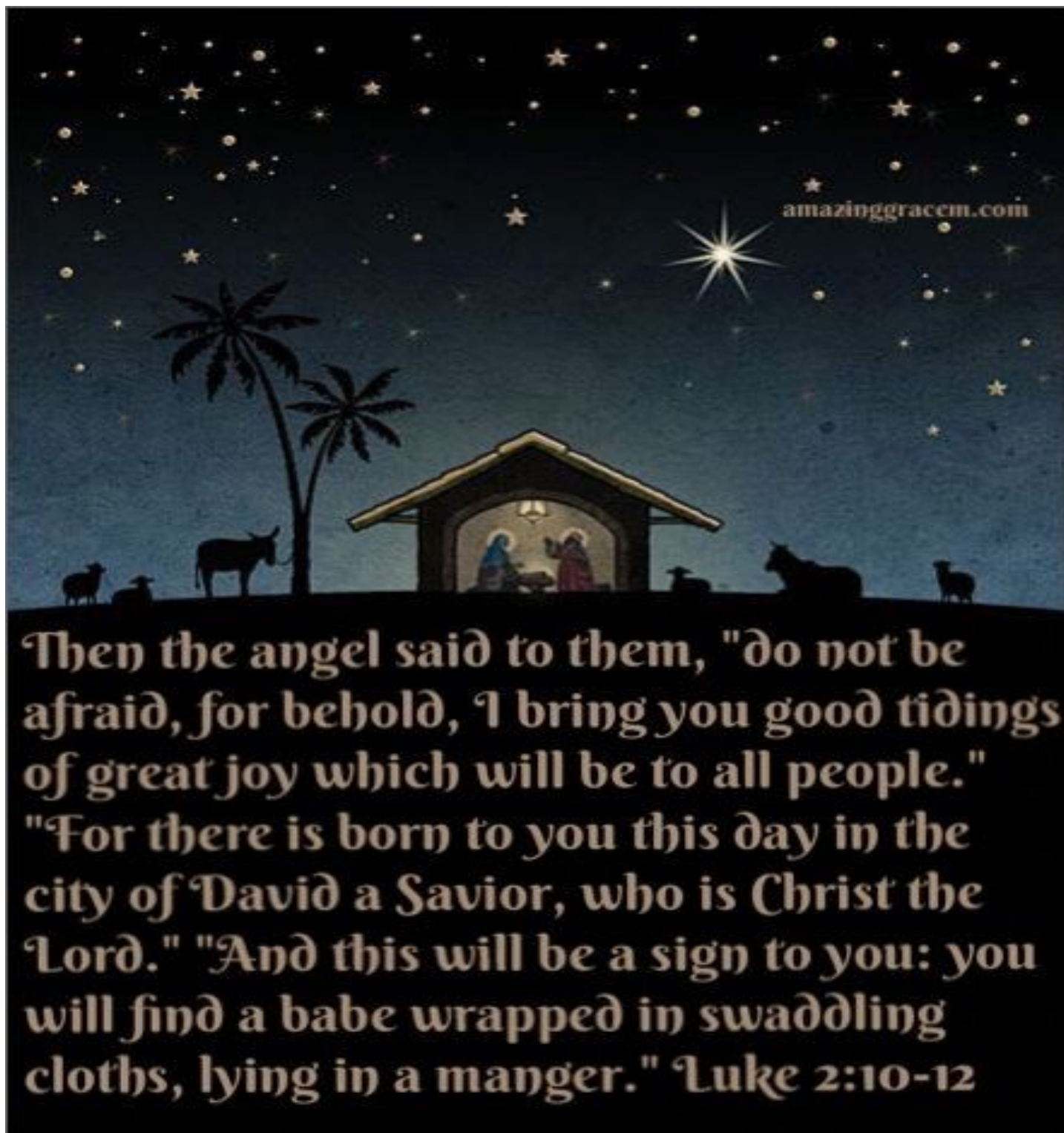
Did you know... ?? Your tax-deductible contribution to St. Francis Parish will help us continue God's work to bring change to the world He gave us. There have been changes to the Tax Codes for 2020 only. US Congress passed the CARES Act which has changed the 60% allowance to 100% deduction allowance for cash gifts, but only if you donate by December 31 of this year.

Normally, you can only deduct charitable contributions if you itemize your tax return. But this year, the CARES Act lets anyone deduct up to \$300 in cash donations they make to St. Francis Parish. And if you can itemize, the tax benefits are even better! This year you can deduct 100% of your cash donations!

Own a Businesses? You can benefit, too. Your qualified charitable deductions for cash contributions have jumped from 10% to 25%. Now is a good time to max out your deductions by donating to St. Francis Parish.



St. Francis Parish News & Announcements



THANK YOU!

A great big thank to all who were able to donate for the church to purchase heaters for our outdoor Masses. We also, would like to thank all you donated gift cards for the angel baskets.

Your generosity is very appreciated at this time.

Thank you & God Bless

Phone Lines Are Working! 661-327-4734

We apologize for the disruption with our phone system and any inconvenience this may have caused. Thank you for your patience.

Last Month's Weekly Collections

October 25, 2020 -
October 31, 2020

Total: \$15,932.00

November 1, 2020 -
November 7, 2020

Total: \$29,274.00

November 8, 2020 -
November 14, 2020

Total: \$21,040.00

November 15, 2020 -
November 21, 2020

Total: \$28,908.00

We Appreciate Your Donations!

Donations can be mailed into the church office. 900 H Street, Bakersfield, CA 93304

*"Blessed are they who have kept the word with a generous heart and
yield a harvest through perseverance.*

~ Luke 8:15 ~

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